

Remarks

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,845,534 to Huang.

Huang discloses a support pillow that comprises a U-shaped body skin that defines a U-shaped inner space packed with a filler to form a flexible U-shaped body (see columns 1, lines 20-21). The flexible U-shaped pillow includes a main pillow cushion (101) and two opposite side pads (102) extending and angled away from two opposite ends of the main pillow cushion to define a space (103) under the main pillow cushion (see column 1, lines 53-56).

Unlike Huang, who discloses a flexible U-shaped support pillow which has a space (103) between the underside of the main pillow (101) and the surface of the bed by default (see Figs. 1 and 2), Applicant claims a space 32 between the underside of the main pillow 12 and the surface of a bed, by folding the side pads 14, 16, 18 and 20 under the main pillow. While the flexible side arms (102) disclosed in Huang may be capable of folding or flexing relative to the main pillow (101), their folding or flexing by itself does NOT create the desired space between the main pillow and the bed surface, but, as pointed out in the Office Action, merely changes the volume of the space (see Figs. 4 and 10), a space which, once again, is already present by default due to the pillow's overall flexible U-shape. In short, unlike Applicant's foldable side pads 14, 16, 18 and 20, folding the side arms (102) of Huang does not create a space between the underside of the main pillow and the surface of the bed, but only alters the volume of the already existing space.

In addition, Huang only discloses one side arm on either side of the main pillow, whereas applicant claims a pair of side pads with spacing there-between on either side of the main pillow (as shown in Applicant's Fig. 1.). Huang further does not disclose any spacing whatsoever between the side arms (102) and the main pillow (101).

For the foregoing reasons, Huang does not anticipate Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,158,813 to Karash.

Karash discloses a foldable head and neck rest made entirely out of a rectangular piece of cardboard (12), which may be folded to create a pair of triangular-shaped support members (62 and 66) on opposite sides of a base portion (42).

By contrast, and as the presently amended claims now more particularly describe, Applicant's side sleeping pillow combination includes a fabric cover main pillow filled with a resilient filling and side pads filled with a resilient filling.

With this amendment, applicant believe this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.

By:


David M. Mundt, Registration No. 41,207

200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 984-0144

May 4, 2006